Fellow 'Clubmen' Rescue Dodd

By Drew Pearson

Members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee had more of a hassle than the public realized over whether to investigate Sen. Tom Dodd (D-Conn.) for his dealings with a West German agent.

Pearson

Dodd was saved, thanks to the intervention of Senators Russell Long (D-La.), Claiborne Pell and Stuart Symington (D-Mo.). They rallied behind him vigorously to preserve the sanctity of the Senate club.

The issue of Dodd's operations with a West German agent at the time he was a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee was raised by its chairman, William Fulbright (D-Ark.), at a closed session.

Fulbright proposed a very mild resolution merely to ask the Justice Department to supply any information it had regarding Gen. Julius Klein and his connections with Dodd; specifically whether Klein had reported to the Justice Department as required by law that he had written speeches for Dodd.

Sen. Wayne Morse (D-Ore.) backed Fulbright vigorously. But Pell suggested that Fulbright have a confidential talk with Dodd to get his explanation of the facts.

"I'll have no such talk with Sen. Dodd," replied Fulbright emphatically. He added that the matter should be handled in the open, not on a confidential basis.

"The matter is much too embarrassing for Tom," said Symington of Missouri.

"What's he embarrassed about if there is no truth to the newspaper accounts?" asked Morse.

"His wife is so upset she's in the hospital," argued Symington.

Symington apparently didn't know that Dodd had told several people that his wife was in the hospital but when they called up to send flowers, they learned she had not been there at all.

Pell suggested that Dodd was not present and the matter should wait until he could be present. This caused another Senator to remark that Dodd was almost never present at any session of the Foreign Relations Committee.

"I thought we were supposed to have a committee on ethics," suggested Morse. "What is it doing?"

Morse said this ironically, but friends of Dodd seized on it to demand that the Senate Foreign Relations Committee wait until the Senate Ethics Committee had acted. On a motion by Sen. Long, supported by Symington and Pell, it was agreed that Dodd should be notified of the discussion and given a chance to answer. Meanwhile, the Foreign Relations Committee would wait for the Ethics Committee to act.

Since that time, Dodd has been informed of the debate and his chance to answer charges against him. Despite this, he hasn't been near the Senate Foreign Relations Committee of which he is a member.

Unique Friendship

Lt. Col. Eugene McElroy has flown to Los Angeles to help install some special electronics devices in the palatial new home of his former chief, Gen. Curtis LeMay.

McElroy is the electronics expert who wired the San Francisco apartment of Sen. Barry Goldwater during the Republican National Convention so Barry could listen to ham operators during GOP debates. McElroy also checked Goldwater's hotel suite to be sure it was not bugged or wiretapped.

Colonel McElroy says that LeMay, however, is a pretty good electronics expert himself, having built his own stereo set and two speakers.

Because of electronics, a unique friendship has developed between the crusty retired Air Force Chief of Staff and the dapper young lieutenant colonel. McElroy is probably the only Air Force officer who tells LeMay to go to hell. He does it in a differential tone, however, and always saying, "Go to hell, sir."

Sometimes he tells LeMay: "Aw, shut up, sir. Let me talk, sir."

Colonel McElroy's 8-year-old son Terry has caught the habit.

"You ain't no general," he once told LeMay. "You don't got any banjo."

Referring to the fact that LeMay's memoirs have not yet been sold to the movies, Colonel McElroy suggested, "When we lose a couple of more bombs over Spain, the book will get sold."

U.S. Grant's Grandson

The Portuguese probably dont' realize it, but they are getting the great-great-grandson of President U.S. Grant as assistant U.S. naval attache in Lisbon.

He is Lt. Commander Rodion Cantacuzene, whose grandmother was born in the White House when her grandfather was President.

When she grew up she married a dashing cavalry officer in the Czar's army, Prince Cantacuzene, who had fought one of the last great cavalry battles in the Crimean war, described by Tennyson in his famous poem, "The Charge of the Light Brigade."

Princess Cantacuzene, now about 90, is still living in Washington. Her grandson, Lt. Commander Cantacuzene, will leave soon for the American Embassy in Lisbon.

© 1966, Bell-McClure Syndicate

Drew Pearson will predict whether we will go to war with China, over radio WTOP at 6:40 tonight.